(d) whether Government also consider it necessary to send Doctors abroad to acquaint themselves with the latest knowledge of medical science; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In order to keep pace with the advances in medical sciences, doctors are exposed to Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes/workshops in various disciplines perodically organised by the institutions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Medical Council of India, as the nodal agency for coordination of the CME scheme, organised short-duration training programmes in medical colleges/hospitals in different parts of the country in association with foreign faculty from USA/UK. Facilities for training abroad also exist through international fellowships and bilateral research programmes with assistance from various international agencies such as WHO, Ford Foundation, UNDP etc.

New National Population Policy

1138. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a new National Population Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the action plan, if any, laid down to implement the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) On the basis of comments received from other Ministries/States on the preliminary draft National Population Policy prepared by an Expert Group, a Statement on the National Population Policy was drafted and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha in reply to the Starred Question No. 262 answered on 10th December, 1996. This draft Statement, alongwith a draft Note for the Cabinet has been circulated among Ministries/ Departments concerned for final comments before seeking the approval of the Cabinet.

Possibility of Serious Damage to Nation's Moral Standards by Foreign Telecast

1139. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to the possibility of serious damage to the nation's aesthetic and moral standards in case foreign television channels are permitted to telecast programmes without any restrictions;

(b) whether this has reference to the call given by the Minister while inacquarating the annual national convention of AIR and DD Engineers Association on 26th December, 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government will refer the issue to a group of eminent personalities; and

(d) whether it is proposed to examine the technological devices to exclude undesirable telecast matters from entering the country's airwaves as successfully deployed in China and Singapore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The adverse impact of unrestricted programming by foreign satellite channels on Indian values and culture has been a subject matter of public debate in different fora and was also raised in the annual national convention of AIR and DD Engineers Association on 26th December, 1996.

(c) and (d) Government intends to introduce a bill in the Parliament which would seek to bring the foreign satellite channels within the ambit of the proposed law and *inter-alia* provide for application of broadcasting and advertising code to such satellite channels